

Sunday School Lesson

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LESSON FOR DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS LESSON—THE VISIT
OF THE WISE MEN.

LESSON TEXT—Matt. 2:1-12.
GOLDEN TEXT—And when they had
opened their treasures they presented
unto him gifts; gold and frankincense
and myrrh.—Matt. 2:11.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Wise Men Visit the
Baby Jesus.

JUNIOR TOPIC—The Wise Men and
the Star.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC
—The First Christmas.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC
—The Most Joyous Day in the Year.

1. The King Earnestly Sought (vv.
1, 2).

These Wise Men who sought Jesus
were either Arabian or Persian as-
trologers—students of the stars. The
appearance of an unusual star at-
tracted their attention. Perhaps
they were acquainted with the famous
prophecy of Balaam (Num. 24:17).
Doubtless through the influence of the
Jews who remained in Chaldea, or the
direct influence of Daniel extending
to this time, they had become ac-
quainted with the hope of a Messiah.
The light they had was dim, but they
lived up to the best they had. To
those who act upon the best light
they have, God always gives more.
To those who refuse to act upon the
knowledge given, God not only re-
fuses to give more, but brings into
confusion that which they already
possess (Matt. 25:28). These men
were really wise. Let us learn from
them:

1. That all true wisdom leads to
the Savior, for He is the Logos—the
fulness of wisdom.

2. That God's Word shall not return
unto him void (Isa. 55:11). The seeds
cast upon the waters of the East
brought forth fruit after many days.
No work done for the Lord eventually
fails.

3. The grace of God calls men from
unexpected quarters. Some who have
the least opportunities give the great-
est honors to Christ; while others,
blessed with the richest opportunities,
shut Him out.

II. Herod Seeking to Kill the King
(vv. 3-8).

The news brought by the Wise Men
struck terror to Herod's heart. He
was not alone in this, for all Jerusalem
was troubled with him. The news
ought to have brought joy. A glimpse
at the social customs in and about
Jerusalem at that day will enable us
to understand why this news brought
uneasiness to the people. They were
living in the greatest luxury. Fine
dresses, sumptuous feasts, fine houses,
etc., led to gross immoralities. They
did not want a Savior who would
save them from their sins—they
wanted to continue in them. Herod
demanded of the priests and scribes
information as to where Christ should
be born. They soon were able to tell
him. These people had a technical
knowledge of the Scriptures, but had
no heart for the Savior set forth
therein. They had no disposition to
seek Him. This all occurred in Jeru-
salem, the city of the King—the place
of all places where He should have
been welcomed. It seems where the
greatest privileges are, there is the
greatest indifference shown as to
spiritual matters. Where the light
once shone the brightest, the densest
darkness now reigns. It is true today
that the luxuriousness of the wealthy,
the frivolities of the fashion-loving
and the gross immoralities to which
they lead, make Jesus Christ unwel-
come in many quarters.

III. The King Found (vv. 9-12).

The Wise Men having obtained the de-
sired information, started immediately
to find the King. As soon as they left
the city, the star which had guided
them from the East appeared again
to lead them on. Not that it had
disappeared from the sky, but the
dwellings of the city, no doubt, shut
out the sight of it. Oftentimes our
spiritual vision is obscured or hidden
by the things of this world. The star
guided them to the place where the
Christ was. Those who earnestly
seek Jesus shall find Him, though all
hell oppose. When they found Him
they worshipped Him. In this they
displayed true faith. They did not
see any miracles, only a babe, yet
they worshipped Him as King. "Blessed
are they that have not seen, and yet
have believed" (John 20:29). Note
God's overruling providence in all
this. Many hundred years before, the
prophet said that Christ should come
from Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). God so
ordered affairs that Mary should be
brought to that city to give birth to
Christ. God so ordered that these
men should depart another way, there-
by defeating Herod's wicked purpose.
The Lord put gifts into the hands of
Joseph and Mary before going to
Egypt. Doubtless this served a good
purpose in meeting their expenses dur-
ing their stay there. Truly "All things
work together for good to them that
love God." (Rom. 8:28).

What God Gives.

I sleep, I eat and drink, I read and
meditate, I walk in my neighbor's
pleasant fields, and see the varieties
of natural beauties, and delight in all
that in which God delights—that is,
in virtue and wisdom, in the whole
creation, and in God Himself. And
he that hath so many causes of joy,
and so great, is very much in love
with sorrow and peevishness, who
loses all these pleasures, and chooses
to sit down upon his little handful of
thorns.—Jeremy Taylor.

Creation of God.

The first creation of God in the
works of the days was the light of
sorrow; the last was the light of re-
surrection, and His Sabbath work ever since
is the illumination of the spirit.—Ba-
con.

Christmas Greetings

from the
President of the United States

THE Christmas Season of 1921 comes
to a world which I think we all realize
has now set its feet fairly and firmly in
the way of rehabilitation and of return to the
safe ways of progress and construction.

Our own country may well regard itself as
peculiarly fortunate both in its own bounteous
resources and by reason of the opportunity
which it has enjoyed of making its own good
fortune and means to help others.

At this Christmas Season, I hope and am very
sure that our people will return devout
thanks for the blessings that have
been bestowed upon them, and
renew their pledges of service
and usefulness of earnest effort
and safe advancement in
behalf of the best things
in life.

Woodrow Wilson

Puff Pastry for the Holidays

Butter, quarter pound; best pastry
flour, quarter pound; egg, half of
yolk; water, a little; lemon juice, a
few drops.

Take half the yolk of egg, mix, but
do not beat, in a cup with two table-
spoonfuls of water and a few drops of
lemon juice. Mix this into the flour
with a knife, adding sufficient water
to make the dough the right consist-
ency; knead lightly and put out on
well-floured board. Roll out into an

oblong about quarter inch thick. Take
the butter and put on a clean cloth,
beating lightly with the fist until less
than half the size of the dough, squeez-
ing out all the water so as to make it
as dry as possible.

Lay the butter on the dough in lit-
tle dabs, fold over, press edges lightly
together, roll out carefully and fold
in three. Put away in a cold place for
ten minutes. Then flour the board
again and repeat the process until pas-

try has been folded and rolled seven
times, letting it stand between each
rolling. Bake in a very hot oven, but
watch carefully, as it is very apt to
burn.

More Urgent Matters.

"What's that you are playing?"
asked Mr. Twobble of Mrs. Twobble,
who was seated at the piano.

"It's a meditation."
"I wish you would postpone your
musical meditation for a little while
until I can meditate on ways and
means to pay our Christmas bills."

Plum Pudding for Christmas Feast

Plum pudding for the Christmas
feast should be made as early as pos-
sible, as it improves with age, and is
easily reheated. A good recipe for the
pudding calls for one pound of cur-
rants, one pound of raisins, one pound
of shredded suet, three-fourths of a
pound of bread crumbs, one-half cup-
ful of grape juice, one teaspoonful of
cloves, one teaspoonful each of cinna-
mon and allspice, one pound of sugar,
one-half pound of citron, one-fourth

of a pound of flour, five eggs, one-half
nutmeg (grated) and nuts if desired.
Beat the eggs and add the sugar, which
has been mixed with the spices. Add
the bread crumbs, which have been
soaked in the grape juice for a few
minutes; then add the fruit and the
suet, both well floured, and the remain-
ing flour. Stir the mixture well, then
place in greased pudding molds; one-
pound baking powder cans may be
used. Fill the molds two-thirds full

and steam for six hours. The pudding
may be reheated by steaming it in the
original mold, or it may be cut into
slices and heated in a steamer.

A Pretty Taffeta "Sac."

For this you require a piece of taf-
feta twenty-one inches long and sev-
enteen inches wide, of lining the same
amount, one and a quarter yards of
cord, and two strips of cardboard ten
and a half inches long and one and
a half inches wide. Shot taffeta makes
charming bags with plain Jap or satin
linings.